Huie Ordered To Testif

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For Shelby Grand Jury

Crime: Murder, King Case

Memphis (AP)—Author William Bradford Huie, one of the few confidants of James Earl Ray since his arrest, has been subpoenaed to testify before the Shelby County Grand Jury Friday.

It is Huie who obtained a 20,000-word handwritten manuscript from Ray at the time Arthur Hanes of Birmingham was serving as defense counsel for Ray, the man charged in the April 4 death of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Huie reportedly paid up to $35,000 to Ray for the manuscript which is purported to contain Ray's account of his movements in months before the sniper death of the civil rights leader.

Huie has contended in magazine articles on the case that King's death was not accomplished by one man working alone. Federal warrants first issued against Ray charged him with "conspiracy to violate the civil rights of Martin Luther King Jr."

But, the district attorney general's office here has consistently backed the early statement by former U. S. Atty. Gen. Ramsey Clark that the slayer of King acted alone and there has been no indication that the prosecution intended to diverge from that line.

Trial Set March 3

Ray's trial, once postponed when he fired Hanes and replaced him with Percy Foreman of Houston, is now set for March 3.

Another development Wednesday included a motion by Ray's attorneys that he be allowed to sell a series of photographs of himself in jail to raise additional money for his defense.

Ray also asked that he be allowed to confer privately with Huie. The motion said security conditions force Ray and those he visits with to shout in order to be heard.

A committee of lawyers monitoring pre-trial publicity recommended Wednesday that the Rev. James Bevel be found in contempt of Criminal Court Judge W. Preston Battle's order banning out-of-court discussion of the case for publication.

Bevel, an official of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference who was at the Lorraine Motel the night King was slain, said recently he knows Ray to be innocent and offered to assume a portion of Ray's defense.

Battle previously issued contempt citations against four other persons and similar action has been recommended by the committee against Huie and FBI firearms expert George Bonebrake.